2. For selecting the awardees for the year 2000 : Major S.N. Mathur, SM (Retd.), Yachtman and Shri Chetan Chauhan, eminent cricketer.

Scheme for Retiring Sports Persons

2119. SHRI R.P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of our former outstanding sports persons in various disciplines are living in chill penury and are even reported to be selling their sports medals/trophies due to lack of fruitful alternative avocations after their sporting career is over;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to institutionalize avenues for such outstanding, retiring sports persons in need of financial help and/or rehabilitation; and

(c) the details of existing welfare schemes or proposals to create special central corpus fund for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) to (c) Government does not have any information about the number of outstanding sports persons living in indigent circumstances and selling their sports medal/trophies due to lack of fruitful attractive avocation after their sporting career is over. However, under the existing scheme of "National Welfare Fund for Sports persons" implemented by the Government, pension/lump-sum financial assistance are sanctioned to outstanding sports persons living in indigent circumstances who apply for such assistance.

Besides, under the scheme of Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sports persons, pension is given to sports persons who win medals in Olympic Games, World Cup and World Championships and gold medal in Asian and Commonwealth Games.